

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Mugihei IKEMIZU et al.

Application No.: 10/550,002

Confirmation No.: 1240

Filed: September 23, 2005

Art Unit: 4132

For: WASHING MACHINE WITH ION ELUTING AND  
IMBALANCE CORRECTING UNITS

Examiner: D. G. Cormier

LETTER

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Madam:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Appl. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
10/535,247	12/14/2005	1792

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

- Copies of cited U.S. patent application(s) (specification, claims, and the drawings) or copies of the portion(s) of the application(s) which caused it(them) to be cited, including any claims directed to such portion(s) are attached hereto.
- Copies of the cited U.S. patent application(s) (specification, claims, and the drawings) are available on the USPTO's Image File Wrapper. Therefore copies thereof need not be attached.
- The materials in the envelope are considered trade secrets and are being submitted for consideration under MPEP § 724.

The above-listed co-pending application is not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicants do NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

Further, the Examiner is invited to review the References filed in the co-pending application as mentioned on page 2 of the Information Disclosure Statement filed January 29, 2009.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 23, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

  
By  (Reg. # 40,419)  
Michael R. Cammarata  
Registration No.: 39,491  
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP  
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East  
P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000  
Attorney for Applicant